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"ODESSA" STRIKES AGAIN

A nazi organisation known under the code name "ODESSA" last month spirited one top nazi war criminal away from West Germany, and attempted to free another from prison.

ODESSA, which takes its name from "Organisation der SS-Angehörigen" (Organisation of SS Members), was responsible for the "rescue" of Gerhard Bohne, a Dusseldorf lawyer, who had been arrested last year on charges of killing at least 15,000 Germans classified by the nazis as "mentally unsound" in the so-called Euthanasia killings. He was arrested about one year ago, but released on bail early this summer pending trial. Bohne had to surrender his passport and was under strict police supervision, but vanished from West Germany without a trace.

On September 4th the West German authorities revealed that Bohne's chief accomplice in the Euthanasia killings, Dr Werner Heyde, who has been in prison awaiting trial for over three years, had attempted to make a jail break with outside assistance. This assistance was believed to have come from the same organisation.

Well informed sources in Bonn stated that Bohne's disappearance, and the attempted jail-break of Dr Heyde, had been planned with at least passive assistance from highly-placed administration officials. If or when Dr Heyde is finally brought to trial, very damaging evidence is sure to emerge in court about the way in which high officials enabled this mass-murderer, responsible for at least 100,000 deaths, to live and work unmolested under the alias "Dr Sawade" for 15 years after the war, although they knew his true identity.

Footnote: The underground organisation ODESSA has used various cover-names during the 18 years of its activities, but is usually described by its original name in police files. In the early years of its existence, when SS organisations were being harried with some persistence by many allied agencies, ODESSA had to work in the deep underground to get nazi war criminals out of Germany. Today, when many leading SS officers hold high posts in all branches of the West German police and secret services, it is often able to call on the "old-boy-network" for semi-official help.

GDR Welcomes UNA Resolution

Official circles in the GDR have welcomed the resolution on the German problem passed by the United Nations Association of Britain at its annual meeting in July. The resolution stated:

"The General Council of the United Nations Associations, believing that an agreement directed towards resolving the deadlock over Berlin and the signing of a general German Peace Treaty would improve relations between the USSR and the West, requests H. M. Government to consider placing before the other interested powers the following proposals for a package deal:

a) Immediate recognition by the West of the present German frontiers;
b) Limited diplomatic recognition of the German Democratic Republic;
c) The whole of Berlin to become international territory under the protection of the United Nations;
d) East and West Germany to become full members of the UN;
e) All foreign national troops to be withdrawn;
f) The United Nations to maintain a presence in Berlin and to become responsible, with the Government of East Germany, for freedom of access from East and West Germany."

Commenting on the resolution, "Neues Deutschland", leading East Berlin newspaper, wrote: "One cannot agree fully with all the points made by this resolution, but it shows that broad circles in Britain realise that it is necessary to make realistic suggestions for the solution of the German problem."

Political observers in Berlin pointed out that the resolution is self-contradictory in one point; while calling for the immediate recognition of the present German frontiers, it urges that the whole of Berlin should become international territory. This ignores the fact that the "present German frontiers" include the frontier dividing East Berlin, which is the capital of the GDR, from West Berlin, which does not form a part of either of the two existing German states.

More Come East

A total of 1,112 West Germans moved to the German Democratic Republic during August, according to official figures published in Berlin. About one-third of the people moving eastwards are young people between 19 and 25, and the remainder mainly older workers and farmers with their families. During 1963 immigration to the GDR from West Germany has averaged about 200 persons per week.

GESTAPO MEN IN BONN POLICE
– More Details

More details have now become available of the former SS and Gestapo men who today hold key posts in the Bonn "Office for the Protection of the Constitution", the West German secret police force roughly equivalent to the British MI 5 or the American FBI. *(First details of this new Bonn nazi scandal were given on the front page of GERMAN REPORT dated September 6th).*

Section head of the "Office for the Protection of the Constitution" is Erich Wenger, aged 50. He joined Himmler's black-uniformed SS on March 1st 1933 (membership No. 169,000), and one year later was promoted to the rank of SS captain. From 1935 he worked in the headquarters of the Gestapo, and throughout the war was in charge of "internal security" in the nazi embassy in occupied Paris. After the war he was taken care of by the "Evangelisches Hilfswerk" (Evangelical Aid), a "charitable" body which made a point of looking after prominent supporters of the Hitler regime who were endangered by denazification measures. In 1950 he became an official of the newly-founded "Office for the Protection of the Constitution".

One of Wenger's main assistants is Johann Strübing, who also held the rank of captain in the SS. Strübing worked in the Reich Security Main Office, central bureau for the entire nazi repression machinery. Non-nazi colleagues report that Stübing likes to boast that during the nazi period he sent many people to the gallows, the West German newspaper "Die Zeit" reported on September 6th. When Strübing went to work for the Bonn secret police in 1950, he did so under a false name to prevent identification by the British and American officers who still supervised the work of this department.

Another of Wenger's assistants is Werner Aretz, formerly "Higher SS and Police Führer of Alsace Lorraine", the French province which was integrated in nazi Germany.

The "Security Officer" of the "Office for the Protection of the Constitution" is Dr Halswick, SS Lieutenant Colonel, who was an instructor at the central training school of the Gestapo.

A West German government spokesman stated on August 28th that these, and other old nazi officials, were employed because of their "training and past experiences".

"German States Equal" — USSR

The two German states existing today have equal international rights and duties, the Soviet Government reaffirmed on September 4th. The Soviet declaration came as a reply to renewed West German Government claims to represent the whole of Germany.

"It is universally known that on the territory of the former Hitlerite Germany two German states – the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Repubic, and also West Berlin, which is in fact a separate political entity – have developed and have been in existence for some years," the Soviet statement said.

"The Federal Republic has the same status under international law as the GDR, both have the same rights and duties in international relations and neither is subordinate to the other... The attempts of the Government of the Federal Republic to assume the right to speak for the GDR and West Berlin have no political or juridical basis whatsoever and are contrary to the generally accepted principles of international law."

The GDR had been one of the first to sign the nuclear test ban treaty and had accepted the same obligations connected with it as all other signatories. No statement by the Government of the Federal Republic or any other government could in any way limit the rights of the GDR or restrict its sovereignty.

"It is a matter for regret that the Government of the Federal Republic continues to adhere to its dangerous political course. It appears determined to continue to give the impression that it ignores the existence of a sovereign state east of the Elbe river – the GDR," the statement continued. "Contrary to the national interests of the German people, the Government of the Federal Republic persists in its policy of enmity towards the GDR, although there can be no chance of reunification, to which the Federal Government so frequently refers, unless an understanding between the two German states can be reached."

"Two German States Must Cooperate"
- Ulbricht -

The two German states could benefit from improved relations between the USA and the USSR if they followed their example in trying to find a way to live together.

Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the GDR State Council, made this assessment in a speech at Leipzig on September 9th.

The most important thing now was to establish mutual confidence between the two German states through factual agreements, especially on renunciation of anything approaching a policy of aggression or revenge, renunciation of war propaganda and a common sense and goodwill agreement. Reunification could only be achieved step by step, and it would be quite unrealistic to make socialism in West Germany a condition for cooperation, Ulbricht said.

In the course of his speech he urged that representatives of the two German governments and of the West Berlin Senate set up commissions in various fields as a step towards more normal day-to-day relations.

These could include a commission on economic, technical and scientific cooperation, which would be helpful in working out normal trade agreements; a travel and communications commission to work out travel, goods transport and transit regulations; and cultural, educational and legal commissions.

There would be no need in these commissions to cover up or minimise existing differences of opinion connected with the different social systems, he said, for despite all divergencies and even antagonisms in fundamental questions, Germans in East and West did have important common interests.

Pritt Gets Medal

D.N. Pritt, Q.C., famed British lawyer, was awarded the GDR medal for Fighters Against Fascism in Berlin on September 8th.

Mr Pritt played a leading part in organising the "Reichstag Fire Counter-Trial" in London in 1933, which drew international attention to crimes committed by the nazis in their early months in office.

Nazis Move Round Map

Ribbentrop's Men are Still Active

In January 1962 GERMAN REPORT front-paged a sensational map showing how old nazis represented West Germany as diplomats in all parts of the world. This map, which was reproduced in newspapers all over the world, is still valid today, although there have been a few minor changes as old diplomats die or reach retiring age.

Here are a few details of recent West German diplomatic appointments:

Pakistan to Ireland

Dr Heinz Trützschler von Falkenstein replaces Dr Adolph Reifferscheidt, former nazi industrialist, as West German Ambassador in Dublin. He entered the nazi diplomatic service in 1934 and was employed in the German Embassies in Geneva, Prague and Warsaw.

Throughout World War Two he worked in the propaganda department of the German Foreign Office, wrote the nazi White Books falsifying the origins of the war, was secretary of Ribbentrop's "European Committee for a New Order in Europe" and planned nazi propaganda in Spain and Portugal.

He joined the Nazi Party in 1940, membership No. 8,183,952.

He returned to the West German diplomatic service in 1949.

In 1952 he was ruled "unsuitable for diplomatic employment abroad" by a West German Parliamentary committee because of his nazi past, but was appointed West German Ambassador to Pakistan in 1959.

Kenya to Washington

Dr Herbert von Stackelberg was transferred from his post as Consul-General in Nairobi and appointed in September this year to the West German Embassy in Washington with the rank of Minister.

He joined the SA in November 1932 and the Nazi Party on May 1st 1933, membership No. 2,087,769.

From December 1942 onwards he worked under the Reich Commissioner for the Occupied Norwegian territories, and was appointed Government Counsellor and head of the Narvik Office in 1943.

DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT
THE PLAGUE

He has been West German Consul-General in Nairobi since 1958.

France to Italy

Herbert Blankenhorn, who has been West German Ambassador in Paris since 1959, was transferred to Rome on September 1st.

He joined the German Foreign Office in 1929 and served throughout the Nazi period in the German Embassies in Washington, Helsinki and Berne. From 1943—1945 he was Legation Counsellor First Class in the Protocol Department of Ribbentrop's Foreign Office in Berlin. He joined the Nazi Party in 1936, membership No. 6,977,147. He was one of a group of Foreign Office experts who visited Warsaw Ghetto, Vitebsk and Smolensk in September 1941 to inspect methods used to "liquidate" Jews, Poles and Russians.

Blankenhorn was deported from Switzerland in 1945 as an active Nazi.

He rejoined the West German diplomatic service in 1950. In 1959 he was temporarily suspended from his post as Ambassador in Paris after a West German court had found him guilty in a slander case.

Italy to France

Dr Manfred Klaiber now changes places with Blankenhorn. He joined the German diplomatic service in 1926 and served throughout the nazi period in the German Embassies in Paris, Pretoria, Batavia, Ankara, Belgrade and Vienna. He joined the Nazi Party in 1934.

He returned to government service in West Germany as state secretary in 1953 and to diplomatic service in 1957. He has been West German Ambassador in Rome since 1959.

Nicaragua

Dr Karl Albers replaces former Storm Trooper and Nazi Party member Dr Hans Wolf Jaeschke as Ambassador to Nicaragua. Albers joined the Nazi Party in April 1933, membership No. 1,764,477. He entered the nazi Foreign Office in 1938 and was employed as Legation Secretary in Poland and in Western Europe from 1940 to 1945.

In 1958 he was assigned as Legation Counsellor First Class to Bonn's Embassy in Madrid, and worked in the Legal Department of the Foreign Office in Bonn until his appointment to Nicaragua.

Bonn Censors De Sica

The Bonn film censors have cut chunks out of Vittorio de Sica's film, "The Condemned of Altona", because it "presents West Germany in an unfavourable light".

In one cut passage, a character in the film named the infamous IG Farben chemical trust, and two big West German industrialists as having had a hand in the war-time gassing of Jews. The censors explained that they had cut this passage because: "these names are respected in the world today, and should not be presented in connection with events during the nazi period."

In another cut passage a character, referring to present-day West Germany, states: "Today we have guns and butter; and soldiers; and tomorrow the bomb."

The film "The Condemned of Altona" was adapted by American Oscar-winning writer Abby Mann from the play of the same name by Jean-Paul Sartre. Scenes for the film were shot last year in both East and West Germany.

Teachers Take a Look

By Two Hampshire Teachers

When we first told our colleagues in Britain that we had been invited to Germany to give English courses to German teachers of English during our summer holidays, only mild interest was shown. But when we said: "We're going to Potsdam" there were astonished comments like "Potsdam!? But that's behind the Iron Curtain." Or — "If you don't come back — don't expect me to take your class for you next term!"

We were plied with advice, some of it helpful, such as "Take plenty of toilet articles, tea and soap powder."

Most remarks, however, although facetious, reflected a deep interest and an even deeper awareness of lack of knowledge about the true state of affairs in the GDR.

Let us confess, too, that we had considerable misgivings as to what we might find, for although we are both lifelong socialists, we too had had doubts implanted in our minds by the anti-"Wall" propaganda in our country.

The organisation of our trip presented no difficulties at all, apart from the refusal of the insurance company to insure our car whilst staying in the GDR. Provided with a route by the A. A., loans of maps from our friends and the best wishes of everyone who knew we were going, we started our journey to Potsdam.

At all previous frontiers our British passports had received only a cursony glance, but as we approached Marienborn, the GDR frontier point, uneasiness grew at the constant warnings on huge roadside posters that we were leaving "the West".

Our uneasiness increased tenfold at the check-point. A three-hour delay in boiling heat and nagging flies and a window being shut firmly in our faces as it came to our turn after queuing for one-and-a-half hours had resulted in a state of intense exasperation. We were almost tempted to chorus the jeering comments of British and American trippers on their way to Berlin. But under the magic of a letter of introduction from the GDR Minister of Education all difficulties vanished and to our incredulous surprise we were on our way once more.

Fewer road signs, fewer white lines and slightly more uneven road surfaces were the only immediate perceptible differences as far as the East German Autobahn was concerned. Indeed, the countryside was, at a casual glance, the same. But there was a marked reduction in the number of people visible in the fields and fewer houses were to be seen.

By the time we reached the outskirts of Potsdam it was about 6 p.m. and there was a good deal of traffic, mainly motor scooters, lorries, trams and a few smallish private cars.

We felt rather dismayed at the appearance of the houses and buildings which seemed to be, in the main, very dilapidated and in a serious state of disrepair. The people, too, seemed to be rather poorly dressed and there was a general lack of "brightness" due to the absence of neon lights, and the gaily illuminated and dressed shop windows with which we are so familiar in the west.

After some difficulty we arrived finally at the buildings where the International Summer School was taking place.

Immediately, our spirits rose. We were met by warmth and friendliness from dozens of people who were, so obviously, genuinely hospitable and interested in our well-being. The feeling was intensified as we were shown our room, taken to supper, invited to tables in the club room and plied with questions about ourselves and life in the west.

During the succeeding days, as we went on various outings and took part in the work of the school, a change started to come over us too, as we talked and talked to these fine people here in the GDR. It was firstly the recognition that we have been consistently misled by our own propaganda as to the truth of what was going on there. It then became an envy of the youthfulness, vigour, hope and confidence of all the people here. "Too old at forty" is nonsensical in the GDR, for everybody is needed and this gives purpose to their lives. Everybody is studying! You have the sensation that if only you are willing you'll be allowed to have a go. "Criticise the press? All right, come and do it better." — "Something wrong with the organisation? — Then come and work with us to put it right."

English readers who have never been to a country like this may think: "Ah! Yes. They've had the wool pulled over their eyes, too." Believe me we haven't.

We have had innumerable discussions with most of the teachers on the course who are completely representative of the teachers in the country. We have discussed the "Wall" and every other conceivable aspect of their lives, Government, system, human and intellectual freedom; and all without hesitation.

The most profound impression on us, though, was what is being done for the children in this country. We have never seen anything like it in Britain. For instance, a school camp where the entire teaching staff, pupils and kitchen staff go on a three weeks' camping and studying holiday 200 miles from their school. An advance party of older pupils and staff constructed the kitchen, latrines, put up the tents and laid out the lines. Such children too! Open-eyed, never bored, intensely interested and alive; wonderfully courteous

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
9 Krausen Strasse
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

and charming. What a generation is growing up there! Then there are the nursery schools. Every large factory and place of work has one, lavishly equipped with the assistance of the Works Committee and paid for out of the profits of the factory. No longer can women be charged with being unreliable workers, teachers or administrators, for their children are looked after at a negligible cost to the parents in beautifully designed nurseries from the age of nine months. If anyone is ill, baby or grandma, they can go to the Works Polyclinic for dental or medical treatment.

We could go on indefinitely in this vein, for we have reached the conviction that for the first time in our lives we have seen what it is to live positively.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to our German teacher colleagues for giving us this feeling. When we heard how they work, both at school and afterwards and how many things they have achieved such as universal education, complete equality of opportunity for women, polytechnical education for all, we recognised that they are already ahead of us. We should like to thank them all, not only for the untiring way they have talked and translated for us, but also for the tantalising glimpse they have given us of what life could be like for us too. Above all, it should be recognised that although many of these teachers fought under Hitler in the last war, they have travelled so far away from the dreadful mentality which gave rise to the concentration camps, that they now take the children they teach to see these camps which are kept as national reminders of what once happened and must never happen again. There was as much if not more distress in German eyes and voices as there was in our own when we visited Sachsenhausen.

We shall go back to England and tell everybody we can of a country which is striving manfully and heroically to build Socialism from the ruins of the Second World War. This they are doing in the face of vicious, bitter lies and opposition from our own and the U.S. Government who use the West German leaders as their more-than-willing allies and mouthpieces.

It's true that the West has shining-bright neon signs and lovely cheap articles in shops, full and overflowing, smart buildings and smooth roads, but the brilliant surface already has ugly cracks appearing in it, and the GDR is rapidly catching up with the material advantages we temporally possess.

ULBRICHT ON CHINA

German Leader Analyses Differences

Recent developments in China were analysed by Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of the GDR, in a speech on September 9th. He described the attitude of the Chinese leaders towards the problem of peaceful co-existence as an "ultra left-wing deviation".

Experience proved that the period of world-wide transition from capitalism, which had already extended over nearly fifty years, would not end for some decades more. Lenin had taken this into account in developing his theory of peaceful co-existence between countries with different social systems. Peaceful co-existence covered peaceful living together and peaceful competition between socialist and capitalist countries, although there could of course be no question of peaceful ideological co-existence.

Walter Ulbricht stressed that a policy of peaceful co-existence was not simply a tactical move to be resorted to in particular situations, but an integral part of the long-term strategy and policy of the socialist countries, to be adhered to until the final victory of socialism throughout the world.

The Chinese attitude to the Moscow test ban treaty ran counter to the joint resolutions passed by the Communist and workers' parties in 1957 and 1960. The public disputes provoked by the Chinese leaders had only resulted in isolating them and damaging the international peace movement, he said.

Analysing the reasons for the present Chinese attitude, Ulbricht recalled that there had been a broad measure of agreement until 1957. Differing conditions in the separate countries had of course resulted in varying views on specific questions, but in the present case there were fundamental differences of opinion about strategy and tactics.

The Chinese had obviously got swollen heads as a result of the economic progress achieved up to 1959 and thought that, regardless of the economic laws of socialism, they could shorten the transition period to communism by means of a "big leap" and show the world a new road to communism. This idealistic view, which originated in the notion that people could be turned into communists by ideological means alone, led to the experiment of skipping over some stages in development. Serious setbacks resulted.

The Chinese people were sufficiently realistic to know that socialism meant stabilising the workers' and peasants' power and improving material and cultural living conditions step by step. The Chinese people would not benefit from channelling economic potential into atomic armament; what would help them would be an economic upsurge through developing industry and agriculture so as to give them more food and clothing.

The roots of the present Chinese policy were to be sought in the pronounced petty bourgeois influences which played a very big role in China, where the vast majority were peasants. Administrative measures and slogans could not take the place of understanding and adherence to economic laws, Ulbricht said.

The Chinese leaders' ultra-left wing ideas had found expression in bringing up frontier problems — contrary to the Bandung agreement — and in their attitude to the policy of peaceful co-existence. The Socialist Unity Party knew very well how hard and how complicated the struggle against the imperialists was, but they neither over-estimated nor under-estimated imperialist power. The Chinese leaders obviously wanted to speed up the struggle against imperialism and thought this could be done by taking a "big leap", i.e., by armed conflict.

Instead of concentrating on the main task of strengthening their own economy and that of the other socialist countries, so as to help them to gain economic superiority over capitalism, and giving more help to the newly established nations so that they could break away from economic dependence on imperialism, the Chinese leaders considered that the national liberation struggle of the suppressed peoples was of primary importance. Here they under-estimated the value of the cooperation and support which the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries were giving the new nations.

Ulbricht stressed GDR support for the Soviet Union's attitude in these matters and expressed his conviction that life itself, and healthy Marxist-Leninist developments in the communist and workers' parties in all countries, would induce the Chinese leaders to abandon their present views and revert to a more realistic policy.

You Ask - We Answer

CHURCHES IN THE GDR

We have received many requests recently for information about religion in the GDR. Here are the answers to some of the main questions:

1. **What is the legal position of the church?**

The GDR Constitution states that: "There is no established church. The freedom to form religious associations is guaranteed." (Article 43); "Every citizen enjoys full freedom of conscience and religious belief." (Article 41)

2. **How many church-goers are there in the GDR?**

There is a large Evangelical community (nominally about 70 per cent of the population), a small Catholic community (about 10 per cent) and a number of very small non-conformist churches. No precise figures on regular church-goers are available, but observers think the percentage is roughly equivalent to that in Britain.

The Evangelical Church has about 6,000 pastors and vicars and the Catholic Church about 1,500 priests. Minor church officials include about 5,500 catechists, 4,000 lay helpers, 5,500 deacons and deaconesses, mainly engaged in charitable and nursing work, and 1,200 nuns, many of them also nurses. The smaller church communities, including Methodists, Lutherans, Baptists and Free Evangelists, are ministered to by about 700 pastors and preachers.

3. **Has church membership gone down in recent years?**

There has been a decline in nominal membership; few people now belong to a church because it is the "done thing", but the number of regular church-goers remains about the same. Churches levy a tax on their members proportional to their earnings; income from this tax has remained stable although payment became voluntary about ten years ago.

4. **Is religion taught to children?**

Religious instruction can be given in school buildings, but outside normal school hours, if parents wish. The GDR Constitution states in Article 44: "The church is ensured the right to give religious instruction in rooms of the school. The teaching of religion is done by persons selected by the church." Further instruction is covered by Article 40 of the Constitution, which states: "Religious instruction is a matter falling within the competence of religious communities. The exercise of this right is guaranteed."

5. **What is the attitude of the church to "Jugendweihe" (Youth Dedication)?**

The "Jugendweihe", a form of secular confirmation, has a long history in Germany. It was originally introduced by Socialist free-thinkers nearly a century ago. Today in the GDR courses leading up to "Jugendweihe", similar in content to the courses of the Socialist Sunday Schools in Britain, are held in all schools.

When the "Jugendweihe" became popular some years ago many Catholic and Protestant clergymen objected to it because they thought it conflicted with confirmation. They objected especially to the materialist instruction on the universe and the origin of life and to the pledge taken at the concluding ceremony. After some years of controversy the League of Evangelical Pastors in the GDR issued a statement in October 1958 the gist of which was that the pledge taken at the "Jugendweihe" ceremony was a promise to help build socialism, not an expression of faith in "the atheist ideology of Marxism-Leninism"; it need not therefore be regarded as anti-religious or contradictory to the religious oath taken at confirmation. "Jugendweihe" is voluntary, but a great many practising Christian children now join in the course and take the pledge.

6. **Is there any anti-religious propaganda in the GDR?**

Dr Moritz Mitzenheim, Evangelical Bishop of Thuringia, answered this question in an interview with "The Times", published on March 8th 1963. He said:

"Obviously there is a definite atmosphere which is not favourable to the Church. But is it not the same in the west? Is not the difference largely that here in the GDR we have theoretical materialism, while in the west there is practical materialism?"

7. **Where do the churches get their funds?**

Funds come from the voluntary church tax and collections, income from church property (the Evangelical Church alone owns about 500,000 acres of land and much house property), and from large government grants and subsidies. About 12 million marks a year from government funds are allocated for pastors' salaries, about 60 million marks a year for subsidies to the church-run hospitals and homes for pensioners and disabled persons, and about 5.5 million marks a year to confessional nursery schools and children's homes.

The six theological faculties in the universities are entirely financed by the government; total expenditure for these faculties in 1962 was just over four and a quarter million marks, nearly 6 per cent more than five years ago. There is a stable figure of about 500 theological students (554 in 1962–1963) and they receive the same stipends as other students. Each theological student costs the government about 20,000 marks a year.

The government also subsidises the restoration of historic church monuments and works of art and has taken over the entire expenses of rebuilding a number of larger churches and cathedrals.

8. **Are there any new church buildings in the GDR?**

Yes. Apart from all the restoration work, a number of new churches have been built in the past five years. In Cottbus district, for example, where the population is mainly Catholic, part of the government allocation of 2.5 million marks during these five years was spent on building four new Chatholic churches, one new Evangelical church and three new pastors' houses. Four new church-owned buildings were put up in Rostock and many new village churches built in the diocese of Thuringia. A new Methodist church was recently completed in Schöneck and a new Baptist church in Neustrelitz.

9. **Is there any discrimination against practising Christians?**

No. According to the GDR Constitution — "Private or civil rights are neither conditional upon religious worship nor can they be restricted on account of it. The exercise of private or civil rights and the admission to public posts are independent of religious belief" (Article 42).

More than 15,000 Christians including forty pastors and theologians, are elected members of bodies ranging from village councils to the People's Chamber, the GDR Parliament. Prac-

tising Christians work as mayors, town councillors, government department heads, state secretaries and Ministers. Two members of the State Council and the President of the GDR Supreme Court are practising Christians.

There are more than 7,000 Christian teachers and many well-known Christian writers, musicians and artists in the GDR.

10. Can the Church publish religious literature?

Yes. There are 27 theological and church newspapers and journals published in total editions of 359.000 copies.

Between 1953 and 1962 the Evangelical Publishing House in Berlin published nearly 3,000 book titles in total editions of over 37 million copies. The Central Bible Society also published 179 titles in total editions of about 4,600,000 copies. Two other publishing houses produce a great deal of theological and Christian literature.

The Catholic St. Benno Publishing House published 262 titles in total editions of 2,739,000 copies in 1961 and 1962 alone.

11. What other activities do the Churches engage in?

There are more than 2,500 Evangelical Inner Mission and Catholic "Caritas" centres in the GDR. In addition to 76 church-run hospitals with 13,518 beds, there are 288 pensioners' homes with accomodation for 12,269 old people, 61 convalescent homes with 4,759 beds, about 130 children's convalescent homes, several hundred nursery schools and a number of students' hostels and holiday homes.

There are eighteen Evangelical and six Catholic nurses' training schools training 800 nurses. They take the same course as government-trained nurses.

The government long-term public health plan expressly takes the church medical institutions into account. A special agreement was also reached between the Evangelical bishops and the trade unions which provides that doctors and medium-level medical personnel working in the Evangelical hospitals receive the same salaries as those in government hospitals; part of the government subsidy is used for this purpose.

The Evangelical Church also runs a large number of purely religious or social service training centres, preachers' training schools, catechists' training centres, training centres for village helpers, six Evangelical Academies and ten church music chools.

Regular concerts of church music are given in the big churches and there are two very famous boys' choirs, the Dresden Kreuz Choir and the Thomanerchor in Leipzig. Church services are broadcast every Sunday — three Sundays a month Evangelical and once a month Catholic. Church services are also held on request in hospitals, prisons and other institutions; this is specially provided for in the Constitution (Article 46).

12. Can GDR Church dignitaries travel abroad?

Yes. They attend most of the important church conferences in East and West. GDR Catholic bishops attended the Second Vatican Consilium, for example, and Dr. Bengsch, Catholic Archbishop of Berlin, attended the crowning of Pope Paul VI. Delegations from the various Protestant churches in the GDR attended the Oecumenical Council in New Delhi, the World Lutheran Congress in Helsinki, the World Methodist Congress in Oslo and the Baptist Youth Congress in Beirut, as well as a European church press conference in Austria and many other oecumencial congresses. A number of international church conferences have also been held in the GDR, such as the Nordic-German Church Conventicle and the International Quaker Congress in Eisenach.

"NAZI PERIOD EXCELLENT"

— W. German Commander

Admiral Heinrich Gerlach, who takes over command of the West German Navy on October 1st, was a high-ranking officer throughout the nazi period.

He entered the German navy in 1925 and when World War Two broke out he was Second Admiralty Staff Officer in the Torpedo-Boat Command. As Second Admiralty Staff Officer in the Destroyer Command and Commander of the destroyer "Z 25", he played a prominent role in planning and executing the attacks on Poland, Denmark, Norway and France, and especially in the Battle of Narvik. He also helped plan destroyer tactics for the invasion of Britain.

From 1941 to 1943 he was First Admiralty Staff Officer in the Naval War Command Operations Department and Chief of Staff to Admiral Doenitz, Supreme Navy Commander.

He was recalled into West German goverment service in 1951 and was for a time West German representative in the EEC Interim Committee in Paris.

In December 1955 he received the rank of Flotilla Admiral and was appointed chief of Sub-department Organisation and Training in the West German Defence Ministry.

He has been Commander of the West German Baltic Fleet since 1957. He also heads the Naval Department of the Bundeswehr Staff Academy.

He was raised to the rank of Vice-Admiral and appointed Commander of the West German Navy on September 1st 1963.

Gerlach wrote in a memorandum in 1951: "It is necessary to regard National Socialism and the whole period of the Third Reich as part of our German history. I for my part make no attempt to conceal the fact that I do not consider everything from this period as reprehensible error ... Many mistakes were made, but much was done which was so excellent and fitted so well the conditions of the time and the character of the people that we must undoubtedly utilise these experiences in the future ..."

Brecht Tops Best-Seller List

Bertolt Brecht, world famous German poet and playwright who died in the GDR in 1956, has headed the best-seller lists in the GDR for the past five years, according to figures released in Berlin. More than one million copies of his books have been sold in that period.

Second place on the list is taken by Johannes R. Becher, late Minister of Culture of the GDR, a poet whose works are little known outside Germany; third place is held by Anna Seghers, novelist, whose most famous book, "The Seventh Cross", was made into a Hollywood film starring Spencer Tracey during the Second World War.

Far and away the most successful single volume in GDR publishing during the past five years has been "Naked Amongst Wolves" by Bruno Apitz, which sold 782,000 copies in the GDR alone. An excellent English translation is available in the paperback series Seven Seas Books, published in East Berlin.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The West German authorities have hit on an interesting new way of hitting back at West German periodicals which make a nuisance of themselves. Recently the big Hamburg weekly illustrated "Stern" has been a thorn in the flesh, because it has turned its searchlight on the old nazis employed in the Bonn secret police. Not liking to hit back directly, after the row last year when they launched a full-scale offensive against the news magazine "Spiegel", the West German authorities have fallen back on a law aimed at prohibiting pornographic literature.

Minors' Morals

One copy of "Stern" has already been banned from the newstands because it reprinted (from "The Times" of London) extracts from the evidence given in the London trial of Dr Stephen Ward; and the Bonn censors are now eagerly scanning each issue of the magazine to see if they can find any reason, however flimsy, to ban two further issues this year on the grounds that it "endangers the morals of minors". If they can, then the magazine can be permanently banned from the newsstands, and thus condemned to obscurity and probably extinction.

Meanwhile, of course, newsstands all over West Germany continue to display, and to sell, thousands of blood-and-thunder booklets telling of the exploits of the Wehrmacht in World War Two, particularly in its battles against the "sub-human Asiatics" on the eastern front. In past issues GERMAN REPORT has given full details of some of these poison-pen volumes.

Best Seller

The news-stands also prominently display the "Deutsche Nationalzeitung und Soldatenzeitung" (German National Newspaper and Soldiers' Newspaper), a weekly which today proudly claims third-biggest circulation of West German political weekly newspapers. Some idea of the tone of this newspaper is given by these short extracts, gleaned from various issues between April and June this year:

"Not even the smallest part of the German population (during World War Two) took part in outrages against the Poles, Czechs, or Jews, least of all the latter."

"... The damage allegedly done to the sons of Israel during the Third Reich."

"There will soon be a third state sending up satellites into space. After all, the satellites made in Russia and the USA originated with us (the Germans)."

"It is impossible to say 'Germany and Austria' just as it is impossible to say 'Germany and Westphalia'. Austria is a part of All-Germany."

"The character, spirit and physical exertions of German soldiers in World War Two would contribute much to the soldiers of today."

Affliction

Just while I am on the subject of this unsavoury newspaper, I wonder if any psychologist can explain why, in common with all the other neo-nazi or militarist newspapers and magazines in West Germany, it runs a number of advertisements of nostrums against bed-wetting. These ads appear in this class of newspaper and apparently in no other. Is this an affliction wide-spread amongst Teutonic supermen, and if so, why?

Old Saws

I always admire the way in which Mr Khrushchov produces "old Russian sayings" to illustrate his speeches, though I must admit that I have a sneaking feeling he sometimes invents them on the spur of the moment. Let me do the same: there is a well-known Gaelic saying "Don't scratch your left ear with your right hand". Kai-Uwe von Hassel, West German Minister of Defence, did precisely this recently. Speaking on September 8th, von Hassel opposed the suggestion that the NATO states and the Warsaw Pact states should conclude a non-aggression pact. "If we concluded such a pact", he said, "we should be admitting that NATO might have committed an act of aggression".

This is one of those epic sentences which gets better the longer you think about it.

West German ministers almost seem to be having a competition to produce phrases of sensational fatuity. Hermann Höcherl, Adenauer's Minister of the Interior, got himself well into the running last autumn, when he admitted happily in parliament that some of the police forces under his command had acted "somewhat outside the bounds of legality" in their Gestapo-style raid on the West German news magazine "Spiegel". Recently Herr Höcherl has been under fire again, because of charges that some of his top policemen have been breaking the West German Constitution by tapping telephones and intercepting mail. "You really cannot expect all my officials to wander round all day with a copy of the Constitution under their arms," he commented.

This utterance receives a fine shiny gloss when you learn that the secret police force charged with infringing the Constitution bears the unwieldy but specific title "Office for the Protection of the Constitution". On another page of this issue we give some more details of the old Gestapo men who run this secret police force.

Second-Hand Bees

The British Post Office Guide is a mine of useful information; I have just learned, for instance, that you are not allowed to post used beehives from Britain to the GDR. So if you were thinking of sending me a Christmas gift, please make it a new beehive.

Coals to Newcastle

I am intrigued to learn that "Oriental carpets" made in the GDR are widely exported to, of all places, the Near East. The new Ashrafi Mosque in Amman, Jordan, is entirely carpeted with rugs from GDR factories.

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